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## Saguaro National Park News Release

14-55

*For Immediate Release August 1, 2014 10 am*

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### **FIREFIGHTERS CONTINUE SUPPRESSION OF JACKALOPE FIRE MONSOON MOISTURE HAS MODERATED DEER HEAD FIRE ACTIVITY**

Tucson, AZ – Saguaro National Park is bringing in twenty additional firefighters to help suppress the Jackalope Fire. A Type 3 helicopter will continue to provide support, dropping water from a bucket. Cooler temperatures and early morning precipitation have helped moderate fire activity. Fire managers anticipate full containment by this evening.

The lightning-ignited Jackalope Fire was first reported yesterday afternoon. It is burning on Tanque Verde Ridge, near Juniper Basin. The fire is burning in grass, oak and juniper trees and is about 40 acres in size. Fire managers are suppressing it to help protect the nearby Sonoran Desert ecosystem, which is not fire-adapted. Fire fighters responded to the site in the late afternoon and worked until after dark to begin suppressing the fire. The Type 3 helicopter assisted, with twenty 100 gallon drops of water to help suppress hot spots on the fire's perimeter.

The Deer Head Fire, lightning ignited and burning in the Rincon Mountains of Saguaro National Park since July 24<sup>th</sup>, is still active and has grown to 826 acres. The Manning Camp area near the fire has received approximately .24 inches of rain since yesterday. Cooler temperatures and increased moisture likely will slow fire activity over the next several days. This fire continues to benefit the fire-adapted ecosystem including its watershed and wildlife, as well as reducing the likelihood of future catastrophic area wildfires. Crews may conduct additional burnout operations today to secure fire lines and direct the fire away from sensitive wildlife habitat and Manning Camp.

The Tanque Verde Trail and Juniper Basin Campground will remain closed for the duration of the Jackalope Fire. Additionally, Rincon Mountain District backcountry closures will remain in effect for the duration of the Deer Head Fire to ensure public safety.

Smoke from both of these fires may be observed today as crews continue their efforts. However, with elevated humidity and lower temperatures smoke may begin to diminish, although likely will settle more closely to the ground. For additional fire information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> or: <http://Facebook.com/SaguaroNationalPark> or call the Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150.